



# Communications

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#### **Are Waste Fires Common...**

- Yes, However
- Part of the waste business
- Most are operational fires (15 min to 1 hr)
- Majority are surface fires
  - The fire commonly occur in Transfer Stations, compost facilities, and at working faces of LF
- 80-90% waste fires at LF are not reported
- Approximately one major tire fire per year

#### **Statistics**

- 1,754 landfills in U.S. as of 2006
- ~8,400 dump or sanitary landfill fires reported in U.S. each year according to National Fire Incident Records
- 1 in 200 fires escalates to a major incident
  - 42 major incidents per year?
- Probability of small fire better than 50%
- Probability of major fire estimated at 0.5%

# **How Many?**

- Data is limited throughout US
- Google™ Alert
  - Used Landfill, Underground, Compost, Debris, Subsurface, and Tire Fires
  - 291 events since January 3, 2007
  - 145 events per year?
  - Found significant events even in California that were not reported

#### Concerned?

- Health and safety issues (FF and OP)
- Public/Community safety
- Production of unsafe levels of carbon monoxide and toxic gasses
- Dangerous subsurface conditions (e.g., voids and elevated temperatures)
- Damage to environmental control systems
- Suppression Costs
  - Delta Shake \$4.0M, Westley \$3.5M, Fresno \$1.7M

# Why significant fires?

- Lack of Pre-Plans
- Lack of Training
- Lack of Resources
- Command and Control Issues
- Illegal Storage or Dumping



#### Fire Problems with Landfills

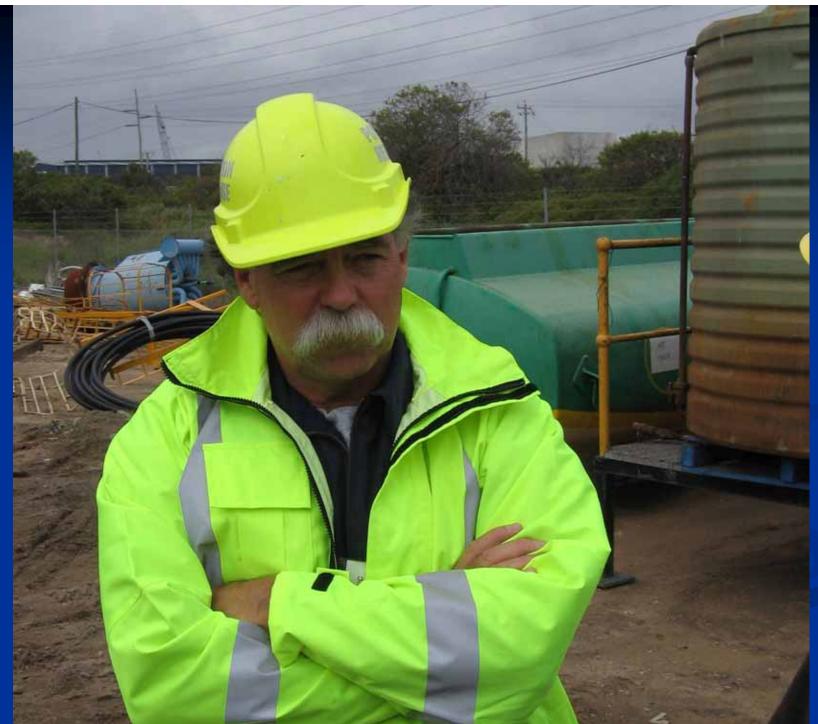
- Typical Transfer Station and/or LF
  - No Pre-Plan Call 911 does not count
  - Lack of equip. (CO monitors)
  - Operators not fit tested
  - No communications with FD

#### Fire Problems at Landfills

- Typical Fire Department
  - Little knowledge on LF operations
  - Site knowledge limited
  - Lack of equip. (CO monitors)
  - No heavy equipment
  - No communications with the LF
  - Pre plans are limited

# Fire Issues Regulatory Agencies

- Typical local health, environment, and State
  - Little knowledge of what it takes to suppress a fire
  - No communication
  - Responding as a regulator not as a responder



# **Beyond Operational Fires**

- Who is in charge?
  - Classic Issue
- Fire Department Right?
- Not always
- Does the Fire Department want the liability?

# **Private Property**

- What authority do you have?
  - Not a crime scene
  - No threat to surrounding property
  - Fire is being handled by the industry
- Number of fires in California where the Fire Department has been denied access

# Liability

- Northern CA Fire Department was billed for the contaminated water they generated during the suppression (\$300,000)
- Southern CA Department lost \$610,000 in suppression costs due to enforcement issues

#### **Landfill Fire Issues**

- You have a mix of LF operators and FF that rarely training or know what issues exist during a major event
- You are using heavy equipment and fire resources together w/o proper communication or PPE
- You may not know the hazards present (e.g. Leachate sumps, GCS)

### The Fix

- Pre Plan
- Train
- Request Resources
- Establish UC when appropriate



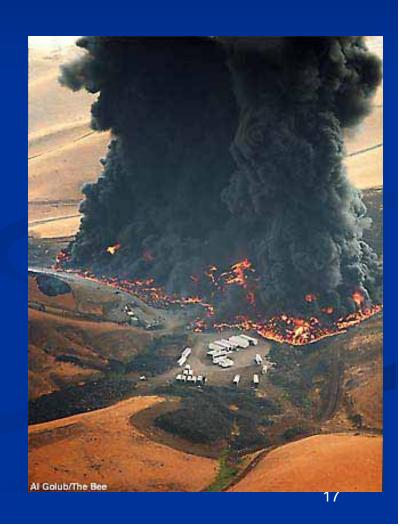


# You have a significant fire

- Define significant
  - black cloud, additional resources needed, damage to envir. control systems, press inquiries
- Notification per your pre-plan
  - Levels
    - a. Local fire and health
    - b. Local fire, hazmat and police, health, State
    - Local fire, hazmat and police, health, State, US EPA, community groups, etc.

### **Pre Plan**

- Must Consider
  - Location of Facility
  - Location of Population
  - Available H2O and Foam
  - Available Resources (HE)
  - Available Agencies
  - Environmental Impacts
  - Air Emissions
  - Funding
  - Evacuation (Red Cross)



#### **Available Resources**

- Fire Department
- Other Landfills
- Local and State Health Department
- State EPA
- US EPA
- Private FF companies
- Private Consultants

#### **Resource List**

- Per you Pre Plan!
  - Contacts numbers, emergency notifications, fire, environmental agencies, press, etc.



#### Communications

- Paramount to an incident
  - Establish on-site and off-site communications
  - Critical to employee safety and the welfare of the community
  - Success is dependent on communications

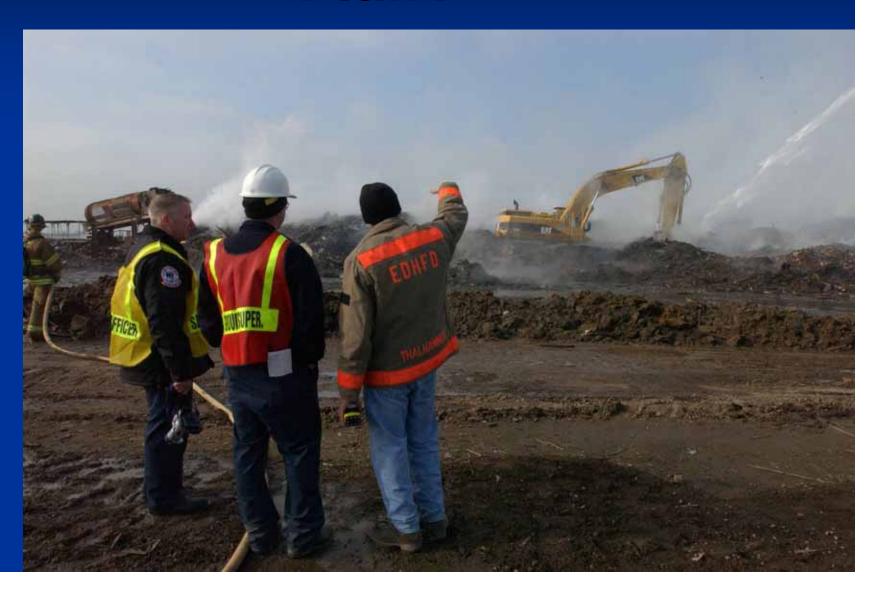




#### **On-site Communication**

- Objectives and goal should be communicated thru incident command
- At a min, conduct a safety meeting before work
- Large scale incident two meeting, morning safety and afternoon debriefing
- All supervisors and team leaders should attend

# How to Communicate the Plan?



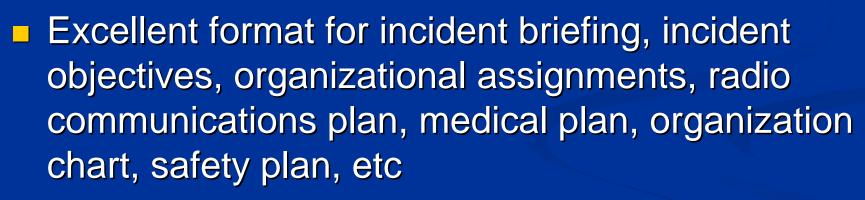
## **Incident Action Plan**

Video



#### IAP

- Incident Action Plan
  - Incident Command System Forms
    - http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/ICSResource/ICSResCntr\_Forms.htm



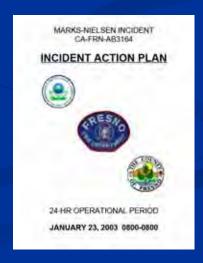
Can range from simple to complex



# IAP Examples

- GOH Fresno Debris Fire
- Last Rubble Pile SF Landfill Fire





#### **Off-Site Communication**

#### WHY?

You need the Press, they are your link to the community.

VALLEY AIR: SOUTHWEST FRESNO FIRE

#### 2nd load of foam due Friday

Crews run low on the additive that speeds work on the woodpile, a site that poses special challenges to firefighters.

By LOUIS GALVAN THE PRESNO HER

Nearly 700 gallons of foam concentrate directed at southwest Fresto's woodpile fire was expected to run out this afternoon, but a

That was the word Wednesday from officials monitoring the huge, smoldering blaze at Archie Crippen Excavation near Marks and Nielsen avenues. The fire blaze, broke out Jan. It at the two-storyhigh, football field-size mound. parking health and environmen-

valleyairquality com to much The Boars

special raport.

using it Tuesday afternoon, add-

ing only a fraction of it to every

Another shipment of more

The foam-water mix is designed to penetrate the burning foam arrived debris and help cool the hus spots, allowing giant excavators and buildozers to work atop the pile and break it up at a faster

The foam also helps trap particgallon of water being sprayed - utage matter, a source of major 500 gallons per minute - on the concern to health and air-quality

Todd Thallamer, an lotegrated than 700 gallons has been or- Waste Management Board engidered from Atlanta, said Janet neer assigned to help ownsee the



JOHN WALEER - THE PRESNO BEE Without foam, if can be a losing battle," says engineer Todd Thalhamer who provides technical and logistical support on the Fresho fire.

say when the fire would be pur out, but he was encouraged by how the foam was working.

"Water alone is not going to penetrate," he said. "Without these in charge of putting out the tal concerns among residents and Marshall, a spekeswaman for the operation, said it was too early to foam, it can be a losing battle.

Thallsamer, who arrived at the site on Jan. 15, said his job is to provide the operation with technical expertise and to enime that Please see FIRE, Back Page

Fire still smoldering

state may be called in pull pile apart, put out blaze; city's bad air ceps getting worse.



DIAZE JU/O CUITUIOIIEU



#### **Off-Site Communication**

- Manage the Public Relations
  - The Press will FIND a story
  - Better to work with then against
- Establish an Incident Command Post
  - Needs to be located a safe distance from the incident and <u>UPWIND</u>. Be prepared to move!
  - Press will go to the ICP



# Managing PR

- All communication go thru the PIO
  - All questions/issues get forwarded to the PIO
  - Work with the local media
  - Issue press releases. Be Honest!
- Provide Security
  - Control Site Access
    - If not, the Press and Public will just show UP!
- Establish Joint Information Center on large fires
  - All agencies, contractors, landfill reps speak with one voice thru the JIC

#### **MARKS-NIELSON INCIDENT CA FRN AB3164** Effective 1-18-03 Unified **UNIFIED COMMAND** JOEL ARANAZ, FRESNO FD TIM CASAGRANDE, FRESNO COUNTY Command MICHELLE ROGOW, US EPA **SAFETY LIAISON RAY BROWN CLINT NICHOLS INFORMATION** JIC **PLANNING LOGISTICS OPERATIONS FINANCE** DOUG HICKS **WALT CHACON** JIM MARQUIS **GARY KARLE** MIKE GREEN Deputy Bill Bondshu ASST. SAFETY **OFF-SITE AIR COMM UNIT** SITE MONITORING COORD. LEADER **DUNCAN McANDREWS** TREVOR ANDERSON **CDF TBD** SITUATION UNIT LEADER SUPPLY UNIT LEADER **ENVIRONMENTAL** FIRE CONTROL CDF TBD CDF TBD **GROUP GROUP** MARTY SMITH FRN DIVS TBD MED UNIT LEADER FRESNO EMS TBD **ON-SITE AIR HEAVY MONITORING EQUIPMENT CINDY McLEOD FACILITIES** CDF TBD DECON **FIRE SUPPRESSION EPA TBD** WATER CONTROL TECH. SPECIALIST DALE ESSARY

# PR Management

Video

